

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the following claims having the same number as indicated:

1-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for continuously producing a succession of separate elongated siding panels ~~each having a series of longitudinally spaced and integrally connected separate shingle panels with a hook-shaped lower portion and an upper portion defining a mounting flange and a groove for receiving the lower portion of a vertically overlapping panel~~, said apparatus comprising an endless conveyor supporting a continuous series of rigid mold plates defining shingle cavities and undercut cavities, a die for extruding ~~an extrudate, a continuous sheet of heated plastics material with a generally uniform thickness and with longitudinal upper and lower portions integrally connected by a longitudinal intermediate portion, a guide directing the extrudate the sheet of heated material onto said mold plates as the mold plates form a moving upper run of said conveyor, said mold plates having vacuum passages for progressively vacuum forming the sheet into the shingle cavities and the undercut cavities of the mold plates by creating a vacuum within the cavities while the mold plates are moving on said upper run of said endless conveyor, and a reciprocating and traveling forming plug positioned for successively inserting into said undercut cavities as the sheet is moving and being vacuum formed into said undercut cavities for progressively forming a series of integrally connected siding panels.~~

10. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as defined in claim 9 wherein each of said mold plates has upper and lower undercut cavities ~~into which the upper and lower~~

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~~portions of the sheet are progressively vacuum formed as the mold plates are moving on said upper run of said conveyor, and wherein said reciprocating and traveling forming plugs are positioned for inserting the extrudate the upper and lower portions of the sheet into said cavities as the sheet is moving with said mold plates on said upper run of said conveyor.~~

11. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as defined in claim 9 wherein each of said mold plates is formed of aluminum ~~for conducting heat quickly from the sheet of heated plastics material.~~

12. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as defined in claim 9 and including a corresponding conveyor slat attached to each of said mold plates on said endless conveyor, and elongated parallel spaced guide tracks receiving said conveyor slates. [[.]]

13. (Cancelled).

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14. (New) Apparatus for continuously producing elongated siding panels, said apparatus comprising:

an endless conveyor;

a die for extruding a continuous sheet of heated plastics material such that the continuous sheet has a generally uniform thickness and has longitudinal upper and lower portions integrally connected by a longitudinal intermediate portion;

a continuous series of rigid mold plates supported by said endless conveyor and defining shingle cavities and undercut cavities and having vacuum passages, whereby a vacuum is created within the cavities while the mold plates are moving on said upper run of said endless conveyor for progressively vacuum-forming the sheet into the shingle cavities and the undercut cavities of the mold plates;

a guide directing the sheet of heated material onto said mold plates; and

a reciprocating and traveling forming plug positioned for successively inserting into said undercut cavities, whereby a series of integrally connected siding panels are formed as the sheet is moving and being vacuum formed into said undercut cavities.